

**WINCHESTER SCHOOL BOARD MEETING  
WINCHESTER SCHOOL LIBRARY  
FEBRUARY 3, 2022**

School Board Members Present: L. Picard, T. Perkins, L. Hildreth, T. Kilanski, J. Rokes

Administration Present: K. Dassau, T. Taylor, V. Carey, M. Hill

The meeting was called to order at 6:30pm.

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the public and non-public minutes of 1/20/22; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 4-0-1 (J. Rokes – abstained), MOTION PASSED.**

**PRINCIPAL’S REPORT – V. Carey:**

Quarantine Protocol – V. Carey explained they did not need to make any changes to the current protocol after receiving ambiguous language the day before the last Board meeting. What was brought to the Board at the last meeting is what the school has been operating under. Advised it is working as well as it can. It is still a tremendous amount of work. They continue to have a large number of students and staff out. Feeling the strain at the staffing level. There is a lot more required of everyone than the regular roles and responsibilities. Kids still get lessons and experiences; staff are working really hard to make sure that happens.

Celebrated 100<sup>th</sup> day of school today; kids dressed up as 100 year olds or various 100 collections. Also, it was the end of the Penny Wars Fundraiser. There was quite a bit of excitement. It was a fundraiser for Student Council so they will decide what kind of student activities to use those funds for.

School has been cancelled for tomorrow – will be a snow day.

**BUSINESS MANAGER’S REPORT – T. Taylor:**

The Board received the year-to-date budget as of 1/31/22. T. Taylor reviewed with the Board. Explained they tried to encumber any expenditures that they think they will incur. There is currently a fund balance of \$1,968,173. Still have benefits, unemployment compensation, etc. that has not been encumbered, so that number will drop moving forward. Not looking at anything out of the ordinary.

**T. Kilanski MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$148,485.32, dated 1/28/22, SECONDED by: L. Hildreth; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$672.47, dated 1/28/22, SECONDED by: L. Picard; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Hildreth MOVED to approve the Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$65.98, dated 1/28/22, SECONDED by: L. Picard; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

**T. Kilanski MOVED to approve the Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$230,542.60, dated 2/4/22, SECONDED by: L. Hildreth; VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

L. Picard brought a request to withdraw from the Trust Fund for scholarships given out in 2021.

**T. Perkins MOVED to approve Board signatures for withdrawal of funds; SECONDED by: L. Picard, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

M. Hill advised that a pipe split in the Music Room on Monday morning due to frozen pipes. The issue was handled quickly so there was minimal damage. Precision Temperature Control will come on Friday to give an assessment.

The Chairs are here for the Deliberative Session.

**SUPERINTENDENT'S REPORT – K. DASSAU:**

The Board reviewed the 2022-2023 calendar. L. Picard advised they have received some feedback from the Professional Development Committee; there were no changes recommended for the 2022-23 school year.

**L. Picard MOVED to approve the 2022-2023 school year calendar that has been proposed; SECONDED by: T. Perkins, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

A non-public session is needed tonight for a MOA issue.

J. Rokes asked if they still had the time clock.

K. Dassau – yes.

J. Rokes advised he is disappointed that it didn't get put into the timeline that was put forth. Advised that's behind them, so he is over it at this point.

L. Picard – So we will not be following up on this, on our agenda again.

**SCHOOL BOARD CHAIR – L. Picard:**

**Policies:**

L. Picard advised the Policy Committee reviewed the following policies:

**Policy BEAB – School Board Member Use of Electronic Communication Devices During School Board Meeting:**

The Policy Committee felt the policy is largely out-of-date; didn't feel it was pertinent anymore.

**L. Picard MOVED to rescind Policy BEAB; SECONDED by: T. Perkins,**

T. Kilanski is nervous about removing this policy. Thinks if they remove the policy people can sit through a meeting and play games or Facebook. There would be nothing in writing saying they can't.

L. Picard advised this policy doesn't address that, so it wouldn't stop you from doing it now.

K. Dassau advised it the Board wanted to know if Marie Braley sent out the agenda or wanted to look at a policy, it would prohibit that; or allowing L. Picard to use her phone to stream the meeting.

L. Picard wondered if this is an opportunity to see if there is an updated policy from the NHSBA that they can use; but thinks Marie Braley would probably have known if there was.

V. Carey wondered if there was another type of policy that could be used with regard to Board member behaviors and how Board members should be engaged in the meeting rather than calling out specific electronic devices. Feels that might be more effective.

L. Picard there are several policies like that. The Policy Committee could certainly review and come back with a recommendation to the Board.

J. Rokes agrees with T. Kilanski. Would like to see them come up with a new policy before they get rid of this one.

After discussion, L. Picard advised she was not going to rescind her motion, but would accept a Friendly Amendment.

**T. Kilanski made a Friendly Amendment that the Policy Committee will review and add Board Member Behavior and Engagement to the proper policy, VOTED: 4-1 (J. Rokes – no). The Policy Committee will bring back to the Board.**

**Policy BGAA – Policy Development, Adoption & Review:**

This policy will replace Policies BG, BGA, BGB, BGC and BGE.

J. Rokes asked about the policy.

V. Carey explained basically the one that exists is a combination of the five policies.

T. Kilanski asked if the Board reviews a policy, are they going to allow the public to talk and not have an issue with the 15 minute time limit.

V. Carey explained the public could speak before the vote.

T. Kilanski doesn't want it to come into play with the 15 min. time limit. He wants 15 minutes for other public comments, too.

L. Picard advised if there was a lot of people, they could limit the time per person for policy comments or if the Board agrees, extend the citizens' comments time limit.

L. Picard advised the Policy Committee can discuss the public comment component and bring it back for a second reading.

**Policy BHE – Board Use of Email & Other Electronic Communication:**

Came to the Board for a second review; looking for approval at the next meeting.

### **Policy DJE – Bidding Requirements:**

Came to the Board for a second review; looking for approval at the next Board meeting.

J. Rokes asked if the Town opens bids. Thinks the School Board should open sealed bids at a School Board meeting and the Board could review, discuss and approve.

T. Taylor a meeting where bids are opened would be public, so everyone could attend.

J. Rokes feels the whole Board should see them all.

K. Dassau advised they could review them, but feels it would make for a lengthy School Board meeting to have the Board review them at that time.

T. Taylor doesn't think there would be enough time to review and make a judgement.

J. Rokes thinks for transparency, everyone should see them and review them. It would make him more comfortable.

T. Taylor explained the process after bids are received. Then they are reviewed further and members can come back and make a determination.

J. Rokes would be interested to know if the Town opens sealed bids.

V. Carey explained the role of the Committees is to take work off of the full Board. Committee members would be involved during specific bids, depending on the specialty of the Committee.

T. Kilanski advised when they get the bids, Board members could come when the bids are unsealed, if they want to. That is the way it is currently done.

After further discussion by the Board, L. Picard advised they will let J. Rokes know when the next Policy Committee meeting is and he could be there. Believes it is on February 17<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm.

L. Picard has made notes and will bring to the Policy Committee Meeting. The Committee will follow up with J. Rokes questions and concerns and present to the Board for another review.

The School Board will meet at 8:30am on 2/5/22 and then recess until after the Deliberative Session which begins at 9:00am. Attorneys for the Town and School Board will be representing both parties at the Deliberative Session.

### **Deliberative Session:**

The Board reviewed documents that will be distributed at the meeting.

Board members will work on talking points.

L. Picard explained a lunch was planned for the staff and was postponed due to a snow day. Will provide lunch on 2/11/22. L. Picard and L. Hildreth will start coordinating and let the Board know the times, when they have them.

L. Picard gave an update on the Superintendent's search. They are inviting two candidates for the second round of interviews; to include a tour of the buildings. They hope to bring a candidate to the Board shortly.

J. Rokes asked if the Board would be interviewing the candidates.

K. Dassau advised the recommendation comes to the Board for review.

#### **CITIZENS' COMMENTS:**

T. Kilanski advised it was not necessarily Board business, but he also presented this to the Town yesterday. He is the President of Rolling Thunder NH Chapter 3. They have taken on the role of bringing in Wreaths across America so they can put wreaths on every Veteran's gravestone on 12/17/22. Right now there are 434 gravestones. The group will be reaching out to the community, the school, businesses, etc. for volunteers and donations. Thinks all should attend.

State Representative Jennifer Rhodes came before the Board to discuss a piece of legislation she feels if passed, could have very dangerous unintended consequences. She explained they were told that the term Public Official includes teachers. If the bill passed, she doesn't believe, no cell phones, would be an allowable policy anymore because anyone could record in a public school. Parents could record class all day. The idea of a private meeting was mentioned; if in a public building; it is not private. Feels it is an invasion of privacy. Advised the vote was 18-3; now will be a floor fight. She highly encourages the School Board to reach out to public/organizations regarding this.

L. Picard thanked Jennifer Rhodes for bringing the information to the Board. Asked if they have defined public official or is this how it is going to the floor?

Jennifer Rhodes advised that conversation had already taken place. Thinks people who voted on it didn't understand the true intent.

Jennifer Rhodes advised it will be heard on February 17<sup>th</sup>; will correct that if she is wrong.

L. Picard asked Jennifer Rhodes if perhaps she could come back to the next Board meeting; if it doesn't prove to be a long day. They could also put her on the calendar; would like to hear on other bills.

Jennifer Rhodes has a two day session that week, but will let V. Carey and L. Picard know.

**L. Picard MOVED to go into non-public session under RSA91-A:3( e) at 8:18pm, SECONDED by: J. Rokes; VOTED: T. Perkins – yes, L. Hildreth – yes, T. Kilanski – yes, J. Rokes – yes, L. Picard – yes, MOTION PASSED.**

**L. Picard MOVED to leave non-public session at 8:32 pm; SECONDED by: J. Rokes, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

While in non-public session the Board discussed the MOA COVID Specific Agreement.

**L. Picard MOVED to adjourn the meeting at 8:33pm; SECONDED by: L. Hildreth, VOTED: 5-0, MOTION PASSED.**

Respectfully submitted,

Peggy Higgins  
School Board Secretary